

# **National Community Involvement Conference**

## **Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101**

**20 June 2007**

**Jacksonville, Florida**

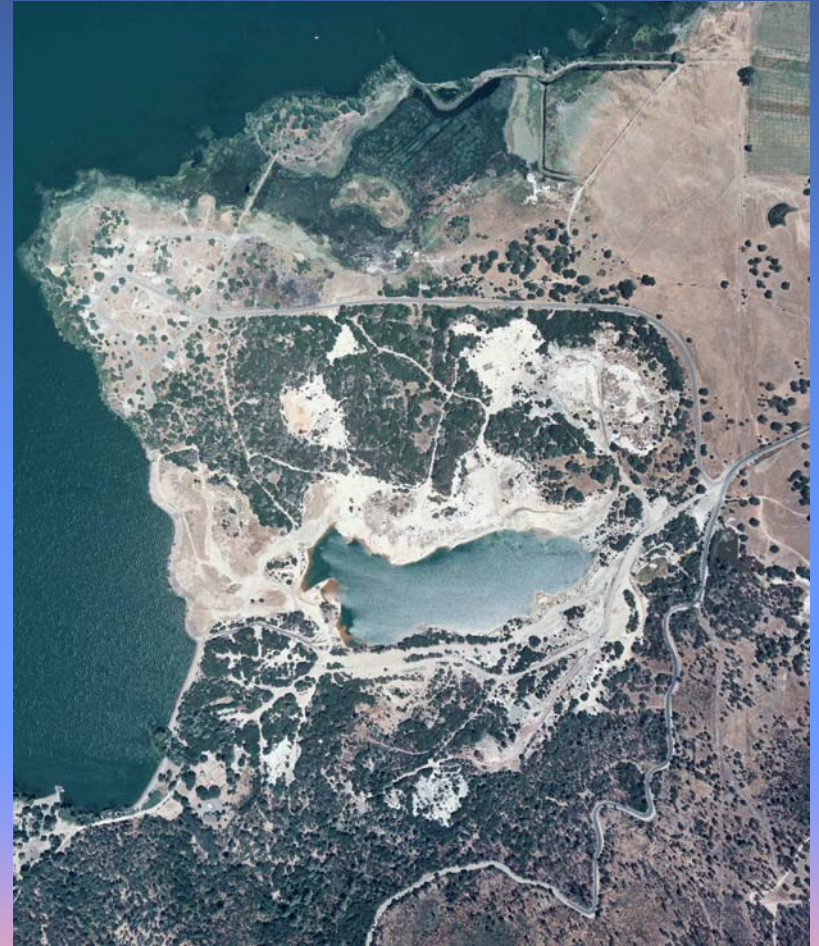


# Elem Pomo Indian Colony Mine Waste Removal Action



# Elem Pomo Indian Colony Mine Waste Removal Action

- Cultural History: 10,000+ years, 300+ members, 50 acres
- Adjacent to Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine Superfund Site (1990)
- Mine Waste: Mercury, arsenic, and antimony
- Soil sampling exceeded risk-based action levels.
- Removal Action in 1997





# Elem Pomo Indian Colony Mine Waste Removal Action

- 2002 Sampling Program
- Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis Mine Waste Removal Action 2005
- Construction: May - Dec 2006



# Elem Pomo Indian Colony Mine Waste Removal Action

## Goals:

- Protect the health and safety of tribal members
- Remove contaminated mine wastes
- Protection of cultural resources and religious practices
- Infrastructure improvements
- Tribal Workforce Enhancement



# Elem Pomo Indian Colony Mine Waste Removal Action

## Outcomes:

- Temporary Transitional Housing Program
- 28,000 cubic yards mine waste
- Two archeologists hired
- New drinking water system
- 18 Elem Tribal members employed and trained; 30 percent of construction workforce





# Elem Pomo Indian Colony Mine Waste Removal Action

## Tribal Housing Outcomes:

- 5 new houses
- 7 houses refurbished
- Elem Housing Committee: HUD Categorical Exemption from Environmental Assessment for 4 new houses
- 2 new trailers



- Removal Action Alternatives: Community Acceptance





# Elem Pomo Indian Colony Mine Waste Removal Action

## Community Stakeholders:

- Elem Pomo Tribe
- Elem Environmental Department
- Lake County Supervisors
- Environmental and Civic Organizations
- Neighbors



# Elem Pomo Indian Colony Mine Waste Removal Action

## Community Outreach/ Trust Building

- Community Meetings
- Interviews
- Media
- Fact Sheet



# Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101





# Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101

- 17 households
- 66 people
  - 36 adults
  - 30 children



# Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101

## Program Planning

- U.S. EPA Guidance
- Basic Standards and Necessities
- Procedural issues (i.e. financial)



# Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101

## RESOURCES

- U.S. EPA
- Elem Pomo Tribe
- Lake County, CA
- Clearlake Environmental Action Network  
(C.L.E.A.N)





# Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101

## RELATIONS

- Elem Pomo Tribe & Government Entities
- Elem Pomo Tribe & Lake County, CA
- U.S. EPA & Elem Pomo Tribe



# Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101

## ACTIVITY PHASES (30 minutes):

- Temporary Transitional Housing Program Planning and Move
- During Temporary Transitional Housing
- Return Move and Program Completion

## CHARACTER ROLES



# Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101

## Program Planning

- Guidance
- Needs Assessment - Interviews
- Temporary Transitional Housing Plan
  - Community Needs & Concerns
  - Matching Tribal Needs with Service Providers
  - Contracts
  - Staffing & Team





# Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101

## Lessons Learned: Program Planning

- Adaptive Use of Guidance
- Needs Assessment - Interviews
- Temporary Transitional Housing Plan
  - Unique to Community
- Contact Information Sheet for Residents



# Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101

## Communication & Decision Making

- Roles & Expectations
- Program Participation
- Verbal & Written
- Ongoing communication: community meetings, face-to-face house visits, telephone calls, fact sheets, etc.



# Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101

## Lessons Learned:

### Communication & Decision Making

- Adaptive Management
  - Roles
- Manage Expectations
  - Refurbishment
- Balance Project Communication Needs and Personal Privacy Needs
  - # Community Meetings and in-home visits
- Verbal & Written
  - Community Communication





# Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101

## Cultural Resource

### Protection & Religious Rights

- Access During Construction
- Security: Health, Safety & Resource Protection
- Identify Cultural Leaders to Develop Cultural Resource Protection Plan



# Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101

## Lessons Learned: Cultural Resource Protection & Religious Rights

- Implement Cultural Resource Protection Plan
  - To Be Developed by Tribal Cultural Leaders and Tribal Government
  - To Be Developed Jointly
  - To Be Developed by U.S. EPA and submitted to Tribe for approval



# Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101

## Lessons Learned:

### Cultural Resource Protection & Religious Rights

- Honor special tribal connection to the land
- Assess the Paradigm of “Superfund Site Federal Jurisdiction” to Adaptively Meet Tribal Access Needs



# Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101

## Budget & Financial Management

- Financial Procedures
- Detailed Budget in Plan





# Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101

## Lessons Learned: Budget & Financial Management

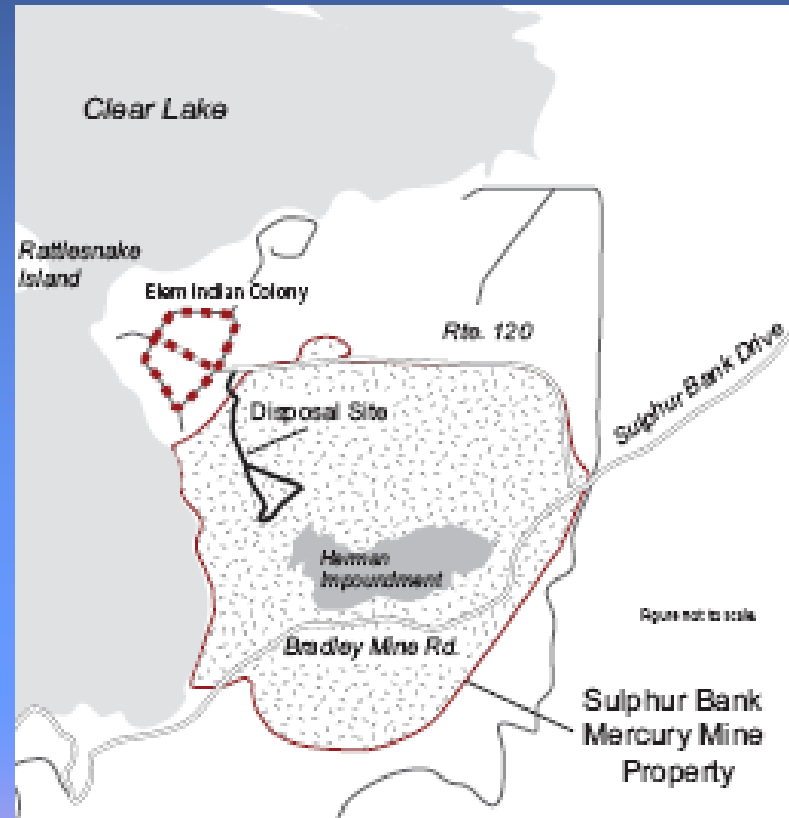
- Develop Procedures Appropriate to the Local Business Practices
- Provide Local Level Financial Management in Coordination with Liaison
- Create Detailed Budget to Enhance Planning and Implementation



# Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101

## Implementation

- Inform and communicate all plan and time-line changes to all affected parties
- Adequate Staff to Implement Program
- Adaptive Management



# Temporary Transitional Housing for a Tribal Nation: Lessons Learned 101

## **Most Importantly:**

- **Every aspect of the Community Members' lives is affected by a Temporary Transitional Housing Project.**
- **For some Tribal members, this was the first time they had ever lived off the Elem Tribal land. The impacts on their lives were incredible and could have been overwhelming.**
- **The main goal of the Temporary Transitional Housing Team was to reduce adverse impacts and make everyone's transition as comfortable as possible.**

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